

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 EB-08 USIA-06  
COME-00 TRSE-00 OIC-02 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10  
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PASS USDA

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: FAO, EAID  
SUBJECT: FAO CONFERENCE-AGENDA ITEM 12- MEDIUM TERM OBJECTIVES

1. SUMMARY: SECRETARIAT IMPLICITLY AND CONFERENCE EXPLICITLY RECOGNIZED MEDIUM TERM OBJECTIVES DOCUMENT (C77/23) INADEQUACIES. SECRETARIAT SUGGESTED THAT ASSIGNING PRIORITIES AND INDICATING RESOURCE ALLOCATIONS TO SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES OVER A FOUR TO SIX YEAR PERIOD WAS HIGHLY TENTATIVE EXERCISE HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON FUTURE BUDGET LEVELS AND CONFERENCE SUPPORT FOR PROGRAMS. 26 DELEGATIONS ADDRESSED THIS AGENDA ITEM AND TWO VIEWS EMERGED. FIRST TENDED GENERALLY TO SUPPORT THE SECRETARIAT VIEW, SUGGESTED THAT THE PRESENT DOCUMENT BE DISCONTINUED AND A SEPARATE SECTION OF THE PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET (PWB) DISCUSS MEDIUM TERM OBJECTIVES. SECOND ARGUED THAT THE DOCUMENT WAS NECESSARY TO FAO MEMBER STATES AS AN INDICATOR OF THE SECRETARIAT'S PROPOSED FUTURE COURSE OF ACTIVITIES AND AN IMPORTANT MANAGEMENT TOOL. THE LATTER VIEW PREVAILED AND WE INTEND TO MAKE THIS CLEAR IN THE COMMITTEE III DRAFTING GROUP NOW IN PROGRESS. END SUMMARY.

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2. ADG WEST, IN INTRODUCING THIS ITEM, INDICATED THAT DOCUMENT C77/23 (MEDIUM-TERM OBJECTIVES) DID NOT STAND ON ITS OWN BUT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ALONG WITH OTHER PER-58,3,T DOCUMENTS, SUCH AS THE PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET (C77/3), REVIEW OF FIELD PROGRAMMES (C77/4), AND PREVENTION OF FOOD LOSSES (C77/19). HE SAID THAT THE SUBJECT DOCUMENT COULD NOT QUANTIFY RESOURCES DEVOTED TO GIVEN

SECTORS BECAUSE RESOURCE ALLOCATION WAS HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON FUTURE BUDGET LEVELS AND CONFERENCE SUPPORT FOR PROPOSED PROGRAMS. WEST SUGGESTED THAT A SEPARATE DOCUMENT ON MEDIUM TERM OBJECTIVES MIGHT BE REDUNDANT SINCE IT TENDED TO COVER GROUND ALREADY DEALT WITH MORE SPECIFICALLY IN THE ABOVE MENTIONED DOCUMENTS.

3. TWENTY-SIX DELEGATIONS ADDRESSED THIS ITEM. A GENERAL CONSENSUS PREVAILED THAT THE PRESENT DOCUMENT DID NOT CONVEY A TRUE PICTURE OF FAO MEDIUM-TERM OBJECTIVES. THE REASONS FOR THIS LACK OF CLARITY WERE, HOWEVER, NOT AGREED UPON.

4. TEN DELEGATIONS (JORDAN, BANGLADESH, FRANCE, INDIA, ARGENTINA, SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC, ET AL) CONSIDERED THE DOCUMENT MEANINGLESS BECAUSE IT COULD NOT SPECIFY FUTURE RESOURCE ALLOCATION. SOME OF THESE DELEGATIONS SUGGESTED THAT SINCE RESOURCE ALLOCATION IS DEALT WITH IN THE PWB IT SHOULD BE REVISED TO INCORPORATE A SEPARATE SECTION ON MEDIUM-TERM OBJECTIVES.

5. ONE DELEGATION (SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC) BELIEVED A MEDIUM-TERM OBJECTIVES DOCUMENT FOR FAO WAS SOMEWHAT USELESS PATERNALISTIC BECAUSE IT TRIES TO PRESCRIBE CENTRALIZED MEDIUM-TERM OBJECTIVES WHEN IN REALITY EACH FAO MEMBER COUNTRY, DUE TO ITS UNIQUE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STATE OF ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AS WELL AS THE MONIES AVAILABLE TO IT, HAD TO DECIDE ON ITS OWN MEDIUM-TERM OBJECTIVES. A LARGE NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS COMMENTED ON OMISSIONS, SUCH AS NUTRITION, THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE DEVELOPMENTAL PROCESS, AND LACK OF CLARITY IN DISCUSSING ITEMS SUCH AS POST HARVEST LOSSES, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES.

6. SIXTEEN DELEGATIONS (U.S., ITALY, NETHERLAND, CANADA, UK, GERMANY, SWITZERLAND, KENYA, BANGLADESH, BRAZIL, ET AL) FAVORED THE CONTINUATION OF A SEPARATE MEDIUM-TERM DOCUMENT. ALL RECOGNIZED THE PRESENT DOCUMENT'S INADEQUACIES (E.G. LACK OF PROJECTED RESOURCE ALLOCATION, VAGUENESS, OMISSIONS

AND/OR UNDER-EMPHASIS OF CERTAIN PRIORITY AREAS). HOWEVER, THEY STRESSED THE NEED FOR A GENERAL OVERVIEW OF WHAT FAO PERCEIVED TO BE MAJOR ACTIVITIES, PROBLEM AREAS, AND PRIORITIES IN THE MEDIUM TERM. THE SECRETARIAT'S PROBLEM OF PROVIDING GREATER SPECIFICITY REGARDING RESOURCE ALLOCATION TO SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES WAS RECOGNIZED BUT IT WAS BELIEVED THAT THIS COULD BE DONE TO A CONSIDERABLE EXTENT EVEN IF THE FIGURES ARE ONLY INDICATIVE.

7. WEST, IN SUMMING UP, NOTED THE MAJORITY BELIEF THAT A SEPARATE MEDIUM-TERM DOCUMENT, WHICH GIVES A MORE COMPREHENSIVE OVERVIEW OF FAO'S INTENDED ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING RESOURCE ALLOCATION WHEN POSSIBLE, OVER THE NEXT FOUR TO SIX YEARS WAS DEEMED DESIRABLE. HE NOTED THAT NO DISAGREEMENT EXISTED ABOUT THE TYPES OF ACTIVITIES IN WHICH FAO SHOULD ENGAGE, JUST A QUESTION OF RESOURCE ALLOCATION. HE PROMISED TO URGE THE VARIOUS FAO TECHNICAL COMMITTEES, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, TO AGREE ON THEIR OWN PRIORITIES. SUCH AGREEMENT WOULD THEN MAKE IT EASIER TO QUANTIFY TO SOME DEGREE RESOURCE ALLOCATION IN FUTURE MEDIUM-TERM DOCUMENTS. WEST'S BRIEF COMMENT ON U.S. STATEMENT WAS TO EFFECT THAT FAO WOULD APPEAR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PATERNALISTIC TO TRY TO SET DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES FOR ITS MEMBERS AND HAS, INSTEAD, TO BE RESPONSIVE TO NEEDS AS LDC'S SEE THEM. GARDNER

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## Message Attributes

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